No War Pact with Pakistan

1252. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Pervez Musharraf has made gesture of peace mooting a no war pact with India followed by the denuclearisation, provided the Kashmir issue was resolved first; and

(b) if so, what has been the response of Government to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) From time to time, Pakistani leaders make such propagandistic statements to attempt to divert attention from their continued support to cross border terrorism and infiltration directed against India.

Nuclear and other Confidence Building Measures could be discussed as a part of the Composite Dialogue. However, creation of conducive climate for a sustained dialogue necessarily requires an end to cross border terrorism and dismantling of the infrastructure of support to terrorism in Pakistan.

Criteria for foreign visits

1253. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for according or refusing permission to visit foreign countries by the Central and State Ministers including Chief Ministers;

(b) the details of such Minister who were granted permission to visit foreign countries since January, 2001 together with the details of those who were refused permission during the same period along with reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure for according approval to foreign visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The criteria followed include, *inter alia,* the guidelines laid down by the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, issued in March 1995, the political and functional justification for the visit; the background and antecedents of the hosts or organizers; and recommendations from our Diplomatic Mission/Post concerned.

(b) Details are at Annexure [See Appendix 199, Annexure No. 8]

(c) The existing guidelines are reviewed on a regular basis.

Cases of Diplomatic Immunity

1254. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Diplomatic Immunity under the Vienna Convention was granted to diplomats so that they are not harassed unnecessarily;

(b) if so, the reasons for diplomatic immunity in three cases involving Zimbabwean diplomat's car, another diplomat's wife slapping a senior journalist and Senegalese Ambassador's son killing his father's driver in a scuffle; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to book such culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Under Article 31 of Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, a diplomatic agent enjoys immunity from 'Criminal Jurisdiction' of the receiving state. Article 37 extends this immunity to the members of the family of a diplomatic agent forming part of his household, provided they are not nationals of the receiving state. India is a party to the Vienna Convention and has ratified this convention on 15th October, 1965. In order to give effect to this convention, the Parliament enacted the Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act, 1972 to have the force of law. Under the provisions of this Act of Parliament, it is obligatory